

FAKERS ARE BUSY

Table Writers Still Working Harvest Hand Theme.

Continue Unjust Criticisms of Kansas Wheat Harvest.

EASTERNERS TOO PUNY

Can Not Stand Heat and Work of Harvest.

Therefore They Heap Abuse Upon Employment Agent.

"I'm tired of answering these fakes," said T. B. Gerow, agent of the state free employment bureau, when a clipping from a Brooklyn paper was shown him this morning. The paper was the Brooklyn Eagle, and it contained what purports to be a dispatch from Ness City. It seems to have been written by one of the New York tenderloins who came out here to "save the wheat crop."

"I don't believe it is necessary for me to deny anything which the New York papers print about this business," said Mr. Gerow. "We told these young men exactly what they were going up against. Some of the smallest and puniest of them I distinctly told were too weak to tackle the harvest proposition, and they either got mad or gave me sort of skeptical laugh. They thought that because they had played a little football they could stand any sort of hardship."

"Harvest work requires not only great physical strength and endurance, but it requires training. A young man just out of a dry goods store or fresh from school teaching, who has never done any harvest work in his life, is not a desirable man for a farmer and farmers are not inclined to pay any more for worthless men than they can help."

"The following Ness City dispatch from the Brooklyn Eagle shows on its face that it is inaccurate by stating that the nearest railroad to Ness City is 42 miles, at West Keene. There is no such town in Kansas as West Keene. Ness City is on the Santa Fe. The Union Pacific main line also passes through the county. There is no point in Ness county more than 15 miles from a railroad. The following is the Ness City dispatch:

"Ness City, Kas., July 25.—Two men from New York and Brooklyn are practically stranded here. They sought work in the wheat fields and paid their fares from New York when they reached Topeka. Mr. Gerow of the state employment bureau of Kansas told them that Ness City stood in need of 150 hands. They left for Ness City a day, with board and lodging."

"To this pleasing invitation the young men succumbed. Although their wages had been agreed upon, the thirty-two from Brooklyn and New York went down to their clothes and fished up \$2.50 each to be transported still farther into the truckle beds of the Kansas wheat fields. Half of them have not done any work since their arrival in Ness City, and the other half are discontented in the wages, the hours and their treatment."

"The country around here has been, but recently reclaimed from a natural condition. The surface of the land is undulating, and forests are scarce. It is naturally a productive country, but its railroad facilities are poor, the nearest station, West Keene, being forty-two miles away. The population of the town is about 1,500."

"Under such conditions the men are practically marooned. These who have not got work, are discontented, while those who have are poorly fed and housed and are worked almost to death. Many of them are so poor that they cannot raise the funds with which to telegraph their friends for railroad transportation home. Those who got employment work from sunrise to sunset, and many have had to quit because of the lack of drinking water in the wheat fields, and for other reasons. The stranded men are wandering around, picking up an odd job now and then, working for their meals and sleeping in hay stacks. They are wondering if they will ever see their homes again."

"The people of the town, however, appreciated the situation and are doing what they can to help the visitors. Naturally enough the eastern men here do not take kindly to the notion of living on charity. They came here to work and all are in condition to labor if work could be procured. Dispatches have been sent from here to Mr. Gerow, advising him to turn back the onset of college men from the east that the papers here report on the way. In this regard the people of the town joined."

"An answer has been received from Gerow, which shows that he is angry at the outcome of the Kansas invasion. He does not know whom to blame for the conditions as they exist, but is a safe proposition that no more men from the east will be sent on to Ness City."

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